

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. A method for increasing immune competence of an animal comprising inducing calcitriol synthesis by said animal wherein said animal is selected from the group of poultry or pigs.
2. A method according to claim 1 comprising feeding said animal a food capable of inducing calcitriol synthesis.
3. A method according to claim 2 wherein said food is supplemented or enriched with a substance capable of inducing calcitriol synthesis.
4. A method according to claim 3 wherein said substance comprises a phyto-estrogen.
5. A method according to claim 3 or 4 wherein said substance is derived from a leguminous seed.
6. A method according to claim 5 wherein said seed is soy.
7. A method according to anyone of foregoing claims whereby also phytate degradation capacity of said animal is increased.
8. A method for preparing a pig or poultry food suitable for increasing immune competence and/or phytate degradation capacity of pigs or poultry comprising supplementing or enriching said food with a substance capable of inducing calcitriol synthesis.
9. A method according to claim 8 wherein said substance comprises a phyto-estrogen.
10. A method according to claim 9 wherein said substance is derived from a leguminous seed.
11. A method according to claim 10 wherein said seed is soy.
12. Use of a dietary substance capable of inducing calcitriol synthesis for the preparation of a supplement for a pig or poultry food suitable for increasing immune competence and/or phytate degradation capacity of pigs or poultry.
13. A supplement for a pig or poultry food suitable for increasing immune competence and/or phytate degradation capacity of pigs or poultry comprising a substance capable of inducing calcitriol synthesis.
14. A supplement according to claim 13 wherein said substance comprises a phyto-estrogen.
15. A pig or poultry food comprising a supplement according to claim 13 or 14.

16. A pig or poultry food enriched for a substance capable of inducing calcitriol synthesis.
17. A method for increasing immune competence and/or phytate degradation of a pig or poultry comprising feeding said animal a food according to anyone of claims 1 to 18.
18. Use of a method according to claim 18 for reducing or abolishing dietary antibiotic intake by said animal.